

The minutes of the regular meeting of Lake of the Woods Twp Council, was held on Tuesday October 4th 2022 at 7pm in the Morson Council Chambers.

PRESENT Mayor C Fadden, Councillors: G Anderson, A Chojko-Bolec, N Gate & W Lundgren. Clerk-Treasurer: P W Giles, Rd Supt Ed Pearson. Visitor: Bruce Pentney.

MINUTES #22-58 CHOJKO-BOLEC & ANDERSON & CARRIED that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council, held on August 2nd 2022, be approved as printed.

ACCOUNTS #22-59 LUNDGREN & GATE & CARRIED that the accounts in the amount of \$173,358.32 and \$341,547.70 and representing disbursements for the months of August & September 2022, respectively, be approved for payment.

BOUNDARY #22-60 GATE & CHOJKO-BOLEC & CARRIED WHEREAS the Township of Lake of the Woods has been represented since 2004 by the MP for Thunder Bay-Rainy River;

And whereas the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River has a rough length by road of 440km, measured from the intersection of the Harbour Expressway and Fort William Road in Thunder Bay to the Rainy River-Baudette Border Crossing in the Town of Rainy River; and whereas the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River currently contains 16 municipalities and 10 First Nations; and whereas the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario has proposed the elimination of the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River and the creation of a Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding; and whereas the Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding would contain 20 municipalities and 21 First Nations, with a rough length by road of 541km, measured from the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Island Drive in Thunder Bay to the intersection of Shoal Lake Road and Highway 17 near Kenora; and whereas this expansion in size and number of communities would dilute the representation of the Township of Lake of the Woods; and whereas the Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding would dramatically limit the amount of time its Member of Parliament could spend in the Township of Lake of the Woods due to the extraordinary scale of the riding and distance between communities, potentially harming the community's access to federal services; and whereas the MP for Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding will have to manage the complex and unique urban interests of Thunder Bay with the complex and unique interests of an equally important, but dramatically expanded, rural region composed of smaller communities; now therefore be it resolved that this Council urges the Federal Electoral Commission to withdraw its proposal to eliminate the Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding and replace it with the Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding; and further that the Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding be kept geographically similar to its current boundaries within the Rainy River District and the Thunder Bay District, so as to protect the Township of Lake of the Woods representation and access to federal services.

BOUNDARY #22-61 LUNDGREN & GATE & CARRIED that whereas, the proposed Electoral Boundary Commission has proposed to remove one electoral district from Northern Ontario; and whereas, the proposal to diminish Northern Ontario's voice in Parliament will have a detrimental effect on participatory democracy and regional

development as the issues in Northern Ontario are significantly different than the issues facing the urban south; and whereas, the Federal Boundary Commission proposal to cut representation in the north is contrary to the 2017 electoral boundary changes for Ontario that recognized the need to add two seats to ensure fair participation for northern residents; and whereas, many of the existing ridings in Northern Ontario are already larger than many European countries, a situation that will only be worsened by the addition of massively new regions to service; and whereas, the proposed new super ridings will force municipalities to compete for a limited amount of riding funding which will further exacerbate inequities in the north; and whereas, Northern Ontario's population per riding is already much higher than many other rural and isolated regions in Canada's north; and whereas, any changes to electoral boundaries should be based on the principles of maintaining communities of interest within boundaries that are equitable in terms of population and geography; now therefore be it resolved that this Council calls on the Electoral Boundary Commission to maintain the electoral representation of Northern Ontario and ensure that any boundary changes are done in a manner that responds to regional and local need.

DERBY #22-62 ANDERSON & GATE & CARRIED that the following days are declared as "community festival days" Lake of the Woods Walleye Challenge to be held on October 8th to 9th 2022. And further that Council grants permission to the use of the Gov't Dock for the hosting of the event.

MAGAZINE #22-63 LUNDGREN & CHOJKO-BOLEC & CARRIED that Council authorizes the renewal of the Municipal World magazine subscription.

OTHER The Rd Supt reported on road work including gravelling of Luft and Red Wing Roads to commence soon, road repairs from flooding, the gutters have been installed on the new pavilion and the NOHFC grant is to be applied for, work on the erosion control wall is to be completed soon, Councillor Gate expressed concern with the traffic through Bergland ignoring the posted speed limit. Mayor Fadden reported on the recent LOW Control Board meeting held in Morson and seeking a Council member to attend the Sept 28 Destination North meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer updated Council on various matters including the recent Fire Committee meeting, insurance renewal, the POA deficit, receipt of the FIR award again for 2021, the filing of the Library Pay Equity report, execution of the firm price agreement with the Co-op for propane, development work on the upgraded website and a budget update. The CBO monthly report was circulated to council members.

ADJOURN #22-64 GATE & ANDERSON & CARRIED that the meeting be adjourned at 8:43 p.m. And the meetings be moved back to Bergland until further notice.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk